

**MINUTES**  
**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, December 18, 2023, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**  
**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration, 8603 E. Eastridge**  
**Drive, Prescott Valley**

**In-Person Attendance**

Cody Rose; Dave Dobbs; Gayle Pickett; Lorette Stewart; Matt Zurcher; Rick Anderson; Susanne Dixon

**Remote Attendance**

Scott A Freitag, Nicolas Cornelius

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Zurcher called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Zurcher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Election of Board Chairperson and Board Clerk

**Director Dobbs nominated Director Zurcher to serve as Chair. Director Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted YES.**

**Chair Zurcher nominated Director Dobbs to serve as the Clerk. Director Pickett seconded the motion. All Members voted YES.**

4. CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

A. County and Town Current Events Summaries

Yavapai County Board of Supervisor James Gregory stated they are working on a regional, county-wide dispatch system and they have hired consultant to look at feasibility. Right now we have five different dispatch systems and to consolidate into one or two would streamline services and help coordinate responses. YCSO met with fire and police chiefs and is willing to look at the study results. The Lakeshore 650 project which is 3,600 homes off of Lakeshore and Fain Rd. is going through TOPV for approval. The Observatory is 2,400 homes, and they are waiting to hear more on that. There are two proposed mine sites on hold, one near Fain Lake and the other between the country club, Stoneridge and Blue Hills. The Fain's are requesting more public comments. He added that the County is going into budget cycle and that is going well.

Supervisor Mary Mallory with District 5 commented that Lakeshore 650 homes would be best served if they were in the Town of Prescott Valley, as they will need infrastructure as the county does not have the water or sewer service. She would

support that property getting annexed into the Town if the project moves forward. There is an additional mine project on Senator Hwy; this one is owned by a company based in China.

Council Member Brenda Dickenson, Town of Prescott Valley, reported that the town has been very busy this year, and has completed a lot of projects, including improvements to Glassford Hill Road and the acquisition of property for Glassford Dell Park, which is in partnership with the County and the City of Prescott. She added that the Lakeshore 650 project is on the town council agenda for discussion in January, and the Observatory has not yet submitted any paperwork. She commented that they are grateful to the Fain's for putting the mine projects on hold. She reported that the Legado apartments are almost complete. Projects slated for 2024 include acquiring property to establish the base for the arch on Glassford Hill; the installation of two monuments, one at Highway 69 and Highway 169, and one at Victorian Estates and Highway 69; and the realignment of Robert Road to ease traffic.

B. Letters from the Public and Board Recognition

Chair Zurcher read the letter shared by Matt Behl of Priority Ambulance.

Chief Freitag added that he sent the letter to the crew's Battalion Chief.

5. REPORTS

A. Board Member Reports

Director Pickett reported that she went and observed the recruit academy again last week and looks forward to seeing those members out in the field soon.

B. Division Reports

Chief Freitag reported that he plans to be back in the office at least a half day tomorrow. He added that our CON hearing was scheduled for 10-days but was closed early as AMR only called two witnesses before resting their case. Chief Niemynski testified, both on our behalf and as a rebuttal witness. Closing written remarks are not due until March 1st, which means we may not hear a decision until July or August. He added that we did not get the SAFER grant and will come to the board to ask for funding for the additional staff per the staffing agreement. We've done everything we could regarding our CON application, so now it's in the hands of the judge.

He also reported that we delivered the escrow check and signed documents to Pioneer Title for the Glassford Hill and Santa Fe Loop property, and we should close in early January. It will be ours, but we will have to look at a general obligation bond to build a

station in the future. He stated that today is Chief Barnes' first day, and he was able to meet with him remotely. He added that we are down 6 firefighter positions, and it is our goal to run a hiring process in late January with an academy in March. We would then run another hiring process later in the year with the academy ending at the end of next year. To get the number of people we need to hire in the next year, we will likely have to run several processes.

Chief Merrill invited the Board to the new recruit graduation ceremony next week.

Chief Barnes stated how very grateful and excited he is to be here.

Union President Ben Roche updated the Board regarding the PSPRS Tier III retirement contributions, which has been raised from a cap of \$115k to \$140k. He believes this is a good change for our members. The first batch of Tier III retirees is set to retire in 2042. The PFFA continues to work to bring more benefits to the Tier III members. The dates for the PFFA ceremony for the Fallen Firefighter Memorial will be held at the State Capitol on the morning of January 14th. Our pipes and drums and honor guard will be there. He expressed his gratitude for the support of the board to allow us to have the holiday award celebration ceremony, and he commented that he will be attending the AFDA winter conference in January.

6. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Regular Session Minutes - November 27, 2023
- B. Approve Executive Session Minutes - November 27, 2023
- C. Approve November 30, 2023 General Fund Financial Statements
- D. Approve Fire Protection Agreements: Schuetta
- E. Approve Policy Amendments: 120 Purpose and Scope of Policy Manual; 201 Background Check; 202 Testing Policy; 203 Drug Policy; 401 Work Schedule; 404 Family Medical Leave Act; 405 Industrial Leave; 615 Investigation Policy; 980 Respiratory Protection

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

Move: Gayle Pickett Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

8. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Executive Session was waived.**

- A. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Ambulance Certificate of Necessity (CON)
- B. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Lawsuit Filed by Alvin R. Yount
- C. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding AMR Litigation Matter

9. NEW BUSINESS - CONTINUED

- A. Discussion and Possible Approval of FY 24-25 Budget Development Schedule

**Motion to approve the FY 24-25 Budget Development Schedule.**

Move: Dave Dobbs Second: Gayle Pickett Status: Passed

- B. Discussion and Possible Approval to Purchase New Generator for Station 53, Not to Exceed \$60,000

Chief Rose explained that there are two bids in the packet; we were unable to get a third quote. This is for a new generator to run the station as the old generator is fairly old and too small to run the whole station. He added that the price includes installation and the electrical work needed to get it installed. Staff recommends going with the BGA quote. This is a budgeted item.

**Motion to approve the purchase of a new generator from BGA for Station 53, not to exceed \$60,000.**

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

- C. Discussion and Possible Approval to Donate Vehicle 102 to the Oatman Fire District

Chief Rose advised the Board that this is a reserve training engine, currently at CARTA, and is on the approved replacement plan. The Oatman Fire Chief has expressed gratitude for all that we have been able to do for them previously including donating our older turnouts and hose.

**Motion to approve the donation of Vehicle 102 to the Oatman Fire District.**

Move: Dave Dobbs Second: Gayle Pickett Status: Passed

10. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Ambulance Certificate of Necessity (CON)

Attorney Cornelius expects to get a draft of our closing arguments, possibly before the January board meeting.

B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Lawsuit Filed by Alvin R. Yount

Attorney Cornelius stated that we filed a motion to dismiss. Mr. Yount was given until the 22nd to file a response, which we received today. We have the opportunity to respond and will do so in a timely manner.

C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding AMR Litigation Matter

Attorney Cornelius reported that the state filed a motion to dismiss; there is no basis for DHS to be named in this matter. AMR has the opportunity to respond.

He reminded the board that AMR filed their suit in Maricopa County; we filed in Yavapai county and sought to transfer the Maricopa case. In connection with the Yavapai County case, we have granted an extension to AMR to file their response; essentially, we hope to join both matters. We expect to hear the judge's decision soon, then we'll be able to move forward either consolidating the two matters or addressing them separately.

11. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to adjourn at 5:39**

Move: Dave Dobbs Second: Lorette Stewart Status: Passed